[21st November 1955

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) & (b) Twenty-nine prizes of a total value of Rs. 6,300 were awarded for best designs out of the cess fund allotment of Rs. 10,000 for 1954–55.

Government Transport buses

* 2691 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Ministers and the number of officers who travelled in a Government Transport to study at first hand the conditions during peak hours in the year 1954;

(*b*) the number of cases of breakdowns from January to May 1955 in the Government Transport in the City; and

(*c*) the number of buses to be purchased and their particulars?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) The Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport and all the Senior Gazetted Officers in the Transport Department have travelled in both departmental vehicles and buses on line on several occasions to study the traffic conditions.

(*b*) The daily average number of cases of breakdowns of Government Transport buses which reported to shed for major attention from January to May 1955 was 26.

(*c*) Out of 50 Leyland Royal Tiger chasses purchased in 1954–55, 41 have so far been put on the road after building bodies on them at the Government Transport Central Workshop, Chromepet, orders have also been placed for the supply of 50 Leyland Royal Tiger Worldmaster and 20 Leyland Comet chasses. The latter type of vehicles are available immediately for delivery and will be put on the road in the course of one or two months after getting bodies built on them by Simpson & Co. Sanction has also been accorded to the purchase of 2 Dodge/Fargo, 4 Mercedes Benz and 4 Studebaker chasses.

Political activities of aided teachers

* 2692 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether some of the aided teachers of Walluvanad taluk, South Malabar, were "cautioned" by the District Educational Officer, South Malabar, in December 1954 on the recommendations of the District Superintendent of Police, Malabar, for alleged political activities; and

(*b*) if so, what those activities are?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 2540 (answered on 28th September 1955) Government have prohibited teachers from joining political parties and otherwise indulging in

political activities. The relevant orders were brought to the notice of the teachers who participated in Walluvanad Taluk Teachers' Conference and they were made aware of the consequences of any violation of the Government Orders.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Sir, some misrepresentation has been made to the Minister by the department. The Hon. Minister replied that the teachers participated in the Walluvanad Taluk Teachers' Conference. May I know from him whether participation by teachers in an organization of the teachers themselves, which has been recognized by the Government, is a political offence?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : If they had confined themselves to the affairs of the conference, no notice would have been taken. But we received reports that they indulged in political activities in the guise of participating in the teachers' organization. They were warned that action would be taken if they indulged in political activities. But no action was taken.

Children employed in industries

* 2693 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to reduce the number of children employed in the industries of this State since Rege Committee of 1948 findings?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Labour Investigation Committee of which Sri D. V. Rege was the Chairman was appointed by the Government of India in 1944. It made investigations into the labour conditions in several industries and submitted its reports to the Government of India. There is no special report regarding the employment of children in industries. The employment of young persons in industries is regulated by the Factories Act, 1948, the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, and the Employment of Children Act, 1938, and these Acts are being enforced by the Labour Department.

Tirur bridge

* 2694 *Q.*—SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Malabar District Board has requested the Government to accord sanction for constructing the Tirur bridge on Tirur-Tanur road;

(*b*) if so, when, and the estimated cost of the work; and

(*c*) whether the Government have accorded their sanction?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. The President, District Board, Malabar, addressed Government in the matter on 6th January and 13th March 1955. The estimated cost of the work is reported to be Rs. 1,54,000.